

REMARKS

Claims 26-44 are pending as of the action mailed on November 13, 2006. Claims 26, 29 and 31 have been amended to correct clerical errors. Claims 34-44 have been cancelled. The applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter recited in the cancelled claims.

Claims 45-53 are new. Claim 45 is an independent method claim that corresponds to and includes all of the features recited in the allowed claim 26. Claims 46-52 are method claims that depend on claim 45 and correspond, respectively, to allowed claims 27-33. Claim 53 is an independent system claim that corresponds to allowed claim 26. No new matter has been added.

Section 102

Claims 34, 35, and 38-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Noyes (U.S. Patent No. 5,878,406). The applicant has cancelled claims 34, 35 and 38-44, therefore the examiner's arguments for rejecting of these claims are moot.

Section 103

Claims 36 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noyes as applied to claim 35, and further in view of Goiffon (U.S. Patent No. 6,327,593). The applicant has cancelled claims 36 and 37, therefore the examiner's arguments for rejecting these claims are moot.

Conclusion

The applicant notes that the examiner has allowed claims 26-33 (see page 11, of the action mailed November 13, 2006). Accordingly, all pending claims, including claims 45-53 which correspond to claims 26-33, are in condition for allowance.

The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the amendment and remarks.

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the examiner, the applicant does not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly

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Serial No. : 10/672,252
Filed : September 25, 2003
Page : 9 of 9

Attorney's Docket No.: 07844-189002 / P168C1

addressed. In addition, the applicant's arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist.

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Respectfully submitted,

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